

Correspondence

Automobile Coupons.

To the Editor: It has come to our notice that a number of physicians have not signed the automobile coupons carried in the Journal, for fear the office will be over-crowded with zealous automobile salesmen. In order to overcome this and get the greatest amount of good for the Society, we beg to advise you that we will give the name of a prospective customer to but one agency. By this means it is possible to assist us in securing some very profitable advertisements for the Journal at a minimum amount of inconvenience to yourself.

If you have not signed one of these coupons, please do so at once.

Cordially yours,

R. E. BERING,
THOS. E. SHUMATE.

Medical Military Matters in California.

To the Editor:

The situation in California is progressing in regard to its response to the call for medical officers in the army. Up to the first of September 533 surgeons, or 9.4% of the medical population of the State, had been recommended for appointment in the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps. According to the calculation, however, California's quota for the 20,000 medical officers needed would be 800, so that it still has 260 odd men to supply. These must come from those who are less than 55 years old, have no imperative obligation (such as the charge of an isolated community or necessary work in hospital or medical school or in sanitation), who are able to arrange for the care of their dependents or who have an income apart from their professional income, which will support their dependents.

That these should be gotten by a selective draft inside of the medical profession has been urged and agitated by New York and North Carolina especially, the former State having worked out a very elaborate plan by which, inside the profession, this draft could be conducted, and the interests, first of the country, secondly of the community, and thirdly of the family and individual, could be considered with the least wastage of men and of effort. Inasmuch, however, as the voluntary enrollment and acceptance of commissions was going on satisfactorily to the Surgeon-General, so that he had already commissioned enough men to care for an army of a million and enough more recommended for commissions to care for 700,000 more (these numbers may not be strictly accurate at the date of publication), he objected to anything like a selective draft of medical officers.

In each state, in each county, then, it will be necessary for the men who are still needed to be selected personally, and this, which is the suggestion finally made by the Southern Medical Association, of which Dr. Joseph C. Bloodgood of Baltimore is chairman of the Committee on Medical Preparedness, is the plan which had been already adopted in this state, and towards which the California State Committee of National Defense (Medical Section) has been working.

The subject which has been of such great interest in the last few days, particularly since the Selective Service law put the selective draft into operation, viz: the exemption of medical students, hospital interns, and young medical men from the action of the law, has finally been settled by the President by the issuance of supplemental regulations governing the execution of the Selective Service law. (Editor,—See Department of Military News.) It is very satisfactory that a way so definite can be found out of the dilemma in which those who drafted the law found themselves, for they acknowledged from the very beginning the

necessity of exempting from service in the ranks the medical man, who represents the highest development at the greatest cost through the longest time of a professional individual, also the partially educated physician in his student days, as the alternative would be an obvious extravagance of a specialized individual. But they did not dare put into the law any clause exempting any one class, lest they should open a way for other clauses exempting other classes which did not have any equal claim to exemption.

Very truly,

(Signed) HARRY M. SHERMAN, M. D.
Sept. 13, 1917. San Francisco.

State Society

IMPORTANT NOTICE—INDEMNITY DEFENSE FUND.

Notes are now becoming due.

Do not let your membership lapse.

Each member will be informed ten days in advance of the due date of his note.

Medical Defense Rules, Section 3: "Dues must be paid to the Secretary of the County Medical Society to which each member belongs prior to the end of February of each year. Any member whose dues are not paid prior to March 1st and whose name is not reported as having paid his dues by the Secretary of his County Medical Society is dropped from the list of members in good standing as of January 1st of such year, and such member is deprived of Medical Defense afforded by the State Society for the period from January 1st of such year to the date when his assessment is received by the State Society. Members whose assessments are not received on or before February 15th of each year will be notified by letter from the Secretary of the State Society of such fact."

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE MEETING.

5 P. M., September 4, 1917.

Present—Drs. Ewer, Hyman and Reed.

The following matters were discussed and constructive plans outlined for advancing them:

1. Development of the news features of the Journal.
2. Preparation of special investigation of certain advertising doctors, newspaper medical advertisements, and medical commercialism.
3. Special publicity and support for the State Board of Medical Examiners.
4. Introduction of joke column in advertising pages.
5. Continuation of department of pharmacy and chemistry on a basis of supplying practical technical matter from the pharmaceutical field for the practicing doctor.

Suggestions for Readers of Papers.

The Committee on Scientific Work of the State Medical Society, is planning for the meeting of April, 1918, at Del Monte, and some papers are now in the course of preparation. For the benefit of those who are contemplating reading papers, the following suggestions are offered in the belief that by observing the same there will be more time provided for the discussions, and the program will work more smoothly. The writer is indebted to Dr. Harry M. Sherman, past president of the society for this idea.

Remember that one page of double-spaced typewritten copy contains about three hundred words. To be heard and understood by all, a speed of